Windham Public Library Report — August 2013

Monthly statistics

Items circulated: 9010

New library patrons: 66  (44 adults; 20 children; 2 non-resident)

New items added to collection: 100  (all purchases)

Special Requests (items borrowed from other libraries): 23

Reference questions answered: 126

Computer sign-ins: 834

Meeting room usage: 34

Study room usage: 14

Downloads used: 531

Items repaired: 62

Bills for unreturned materials: 17  (7 adults; 10 children)

Volunteer hours logged (Adult/Teen Section): 42
Barbara Keef (Technology Services/Reference Librarian) wrapped up another popular and successful Summer Reading Program for teens and for adults. There were 47 participants (24 teens, 24 adults) who worked their ways through BINGO sheets, completing squares such as “Download an e-book”, “Write a book review” and “Read a book that has been made into a movie”. For every row of squares completed, each participant had his/her name added to the final prize drawings. A variety of prizes, most of which were paid for by the Friends of the Windham Public Library, were awarded to 9 happy winners.

August saw an increase in circulation for the Windham High School summer reading program books. This year we worked in conjunction with Amy Denecker, librarian at the Windham High School, to provide extra copies of the required summer reading books to students. We added 91 copies to our collection for the summer, and were pleased to see that nearly all of the copies circulated at least once. By adding the school’s copies to our collection, not only were we able to offer a greater selection of books to the students, but our library was able to save the expense of purchasing multiple copies of books that will only circulate for a limited period of the year. We hope we can work with the High School library again in the coming years.

I attended a workshop in Orono regarding RDA (Resource Description and Access)—the new cataloging standard for the United States (and other countries). Cataloging records are selected, altered, and/or created for each item that is added to the library collection, and patrons (and staff) are able to search the catalog using certain keywords (such as title, author, etc.). RDA is making an effort to create records that will work with semantic web applications, (hypothetically) allowing patrons to find records/items across websites. Although the content management company that currently handles our catalog has refused to make RDA-compliant changes to their product, the statewide system, MINERVA, has already begun implementing RDA standards. Attending workshops, such as this, is one of several efforts I (and our library) have made to prepare for the likelihood of our joining MINERVA some day. Although our library would need to re-hire a Circulation Supervisor, who would oversee the busy deliveries of requested items (among other duties), the benefits of being on the statewide system would be many.

Staff upstairs have been moving the location of the “Help Desk”, the public-access computers, and other items in an effort to address several issues. The changes, which Inese Gruber approved before she announced her retirement, will allow library staff to oversee troubleshooting needs at the computer stations, and will create a better workflow for staff, patrons, and volunteers in and around the circulation area. Folks from Public Works have been very helpful, moving bookcases for us as needed—“thank you” to them.

Once again, a BIG “thank you” goes out to the entire library staff for their continued hard work. Everyone has been filling in as often as possible in order to keep the circulation desk running, the public-access computers overseen, and the “Help Desk” (Reference Desk) covered. Nice work, all.

- Sally Bannen, Adult Services Librarian, 9/4/2013